

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498
Serial No.: 10/720,917

PATENT
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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for communication between technical devices being nodes in networks, wherein a common group label is assigned to nodes being a member of a group of nodes, and wherein the nodes of said group can cooperate with all other members of the same group of nodes, ~~characterized by including the steps of:~~

- ~~—accessing a group of nodes by a node not being a member of said group of nodes;~~
- ~~—detecting a group label of said node accessing said group of nodes;~~
- ~~—checking whether nodes with said detected group label are allowed to access said accessed group of nodes; and~~
- ~~—providing services or resources by said group of nodes to said accessing node~~
- defining for the group of nodes one or more classes of group labels;
- classifying one or more group labels into a first class;
- detecting in a first node belonging to said group of nodes access from a second node;
- detecting the group label of the second node;
- permitting said access if the group label of the second node is equal to the group label of the first node;
- otherwise determining if the group label of the second node is classified into the first class; and
- permitting said access if the group label of the second node is classified into the first class, otherwise rejecting said access.

2. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the nodes of said group are assigned to or under control of the same user, or group of users~~ the first class of group labels has one or more subclasses, and wherein different types of access are defined depending on the subclass, and wherein also the subclass of the group label of the second node is determined.

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3. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein ~~a unique label is used for identifying an individual node~~ a connection between two nodes has a status, the status defining whether both connected nodes belong to the same group of nodes or not.

4. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said node is a member of not more than one group of nodes~~ the nodes of said group of nodes are assigned to or under control of the same user, or group of users.

5. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the access to contents or services within said group of nodes can be restricted by a user-independent lock mechanism~~ each node is a member of not more than one group of nodes.

6. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characteristic information regarding the group of nodes is contained in a data set, the data set being readable for the nodes being a member of or having access to said group of nodes~~ the access to contents or services within said group of nodes can be restricted by a user-independent lock mechanism.

7. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein ~~a connection between two nodes has a status, the status defining whether both connected nodes belong to the same group of nodes or not~~ said classification information is contained in a data set, the data set being readable for the nodes being a member of or having access to said group of nodes.

8. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the relation between groups of nodes is further specified such that if a first group of nodes is allowed to access a second group of nodes, then said second group of nodes is also allowed to access said first group of nodes~~ said providing of services or resources by said group of nodes to said accessing node is limited to a defined time frame.

9. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the relation between groups of nodes is further specified such that if a first group of nodes is allowed to access a second group of nodes, and the second group of nodes is allowed to access a third group of nodes, then this constellation automatically leads to that said first group of nodes is allowed~~

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~~to access said third group of nodes, either with or without interaction of said second group of nodes~~ the relation between groups of nodes is further specified such that if a first group of nodes is allowed to access a second group of nodes, then said second group of nodes is also allowed to access said first group of nodes.

10. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus for communication between technical devices being nodes in networks, wherein a common group label is assigned to nodes being a member of a group of nodes, and wherein the nodes of said group can cooperate with all other members of the same group of nodes, the apparatus using the method for communication according to claim 1~~ Method according to claim 1, wherein the relation between groups of nodes is further specified by permitting, if a first group of nodes is allowed to access a second group of nodes, and the second group of nodes is allowed to access a third group of nodes, then this constellation leads to that said first group of nodes is allowed to access said third group of nodes, either with or without interaction of said second group of nodes.

11. (new) Apparatus for performing communication between technical devices being nodes in networks, wherein a common group label is assigned to nodes being a member of a group of nodes, and wherein the nodes of said group can cooperate with all other members of the same group of nodes, the apparatus including

- means for defining for the group of nodes one or more classes of group labels;
- means for classifying one or more group labels into a first class;
- means for detecting in a first node belonging to said group of nodes access from a second node;
- means for detecting the group label of the second node;
- means for permitting said access if the group label of the second node is equal to the group label of the first node;
- means for otherwise determining if the group label of the second node is classified into the first class; and
- means for permitting said access if the group label of the second node is classified into the first class, and for otherwise rejecting said access.